CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2002

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PEOPLE & THINGS

- A warm welcome to George Hepworth, Fred James, John MacRitchie, P. Eng., and Frances Morrison, all new members of the Board of Directors
- Congratulations to Rob and Karen Jessome who recently tied the knot
- Tip of the hat to Murray Demolition on the successful demolition of the blast furnace and blast furnace stoves

Condolences

The entire SERL team extends heartfelt sympathy to Ray and Barbara Martheleur and their family on the recent passing of Peter.

SERL also extends its condolences to Rob Jessome for the recent passing of his father.

SERL ON THE MOVE

The old saying, 'a rolling stone gathers no moss', sure has application at Sydney Environmental Resources Limited. We just keep on evolving. No job is too big or small for our team. We're pliable and ready and willing to do whatever is necessary in the best interests of the Government of Nova Scotia at the SYSCO site and in the clean up of the Muggah Creek Watershed.

In recent months, the corporation has had changes approved to its mission to accommodate new demands and the ever-changing nature of the workplace. Our new mandate links the corporation more directly to decommissioning of the steel plant site.

Speaking of steel plant decommissioning, we've been busy. Believe it or not, to date upwards of 300 tons of asbestos has been removed from A,B and C boilers at the north end of the site. That's a lot of material. More importantly, it was removed without incident. This goes to the heart of teamwork and a system that has us all looking out for one another. As we know all too well, health and safety remain a top priority.

Time flies. In the short period we've been providing contract services to Ernst & Young Inc. (E&Y) and Philip Environmental on the SYSCO site about thirty separate projects have been completed. For E&Y, eight assignments were successfully undertaken while for Philip Environmental twenty-two tasks were completed as part of the overall deconstruction effort.

All this activity has led to new employment. Our ranks have grown. Believe it or not in the past year or so SERL provided more than 100,000 person hours of work. It's gratifying to be part of an effort, particularly at SYSCO, that's having a positive impact on the local economy.

Birthdays:

June - Chris MacAulay, Steve Ash

July - Norman Bowles, Brian MacDonald, Calvin Brown, Bill Quinn

August - Brenda Tattrie, Hugh MacNeil, Kevin Musycsyn, George MacNeil, Gordon MacDonald

FEEDBACK

Recently we polled the workforce on internal communication issues. The majority took time to complete and return a short questionnaire. For that, we thank you.

You told us internal communication remains very important to workplace productivity, morale and planning. Management briefings were singled out as a reliable and informative means of transferring information. However, the majority of the workforce believes that additional avenues should be developed to increase the flow and variety of information. When we asked you to rate a number of new communications products in terms of their potential benefit, you singled out a newsletter and expanded management briefings.

Well, we want you to know you have been heard. Management has agreed to increase the frequency of briefings and the Public Relations Committee, Board of Directors, has authorized publication of a simple spring newsletter.

Note: If you are interested in being part of a Committee to help in the preparation of future newsletters, please contact the office.

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CONNECT is a newsletter focused on SERL, its employees, projects and activities. It is an initiative of the Public Relations Committee, Board of Directors:

- Frances Morrison Chairperson
- George Hepworth
- Fred James
- Ray Martheleur

COMMENTS PLEASE

We welcome your views. Together we can make 'CONNECT" a better communications product.

SECURITY TEAM SCORES

On May 13, 2002 our community witnessed history in the making at the steel plant site. Massive industrial structures that over the years symbolized steel production in Sydney were taken down as part of SYSCO decommissioning. Weighing several thousand tons, the blast furnace and blast furnace stoves represented a major deconstruction challenge. Bringing them down safely under carefully controlled conditions required a highly co-ordinated team effort. And central to the overall plan was security.

The entire security team, comprising of CUPE and Steelworker bargaining units, responded to the challenge in fine style. Site access was carefully controlled, patrols monitored parameter areas, internal communications worked flawlessly and despite the magnitude and public profile of the event not a single incident was reported. Collective effort produced the desired result. Hats off to the security team.

EXPANDING TALENT POOL

At peak in recent months our numbers climbed to almost seventy employees. We're a diverse and talented lot. In fact, our skill sets are broad enough to allow us to take on an array of assignments. We're proud to count among us labourers, carpenters, electricians, technicians, administrators, managers, mechanics, and security personnel. And our team has an appetite for learning. If we don't have the specific training needed for some jobs, we'll get it as we did with asbestos abatement.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

Labour relations have been and continue vital to SERL's advancement. Regardless of bargaining unit, employees have worked to create a culture of trust and mutual respect at the corporation. Against this backdrop, labour negotiations normally tend toward the cordial side. At least, that was the case with recent negotiations with CUPE, the bargaining unit for personnel engaged to secure the SYSCO site. A new 18 month collective agreement emerged from discussions. The corporation looks forward to continued productive relations with CUPE.

Have a great summer!!!

Laugh of the day

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